

QUICKENING AND MAINTAINING

Reprinted from *The Sower* 1932. As Mr Howard, in his *Comprehensive Index* lists this "extract", we have accepted it as being an original piece and not extracted from any other written source by Philpot. We consider that what follows is either an extract from a sermon, or very scanty notes taken by a hearer, or the headings of a sermon taken down by a hearer who perhaps expanded on them from memory at a later occasion.

"The exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe" Eph.1:19

Consider, first, the difficulties which grace has, so to speak, to encounter in the quickening of a dead soul into spiritual life. View the depths of the fall. See the death of the soul in trespasses and sins; its thorough alienation from the life of God, through the darkness, blindness and ignorance of the understanding, the perverseness of the will, the hardness of the conscience, and the depravity of the affections. View its obduracy, stubbornness and obstinacy; its pride, unbelief, infidelity and self-righteousness; its passionate love to, habitual practice of, and long inurement in sin. Consider its strong prejudices against everything godly and holy; the desperate, implacable enmity of the carnal mind against God himself; its firm and deep-rooted love to the world in all its varied shapes and forms; and remember also how all its hopes, happiness and prospects are bound up in the things of time and sense. O what a complicated mass of difficulties do all these foes form in their firm combination, like a compact, well-armed, thoroughly trained army, against any power which would dislodge them from their position.

Consider, too, the sacrifices which must often be made by

one who Reprinted from *The Sower* 1932. As Mr Howard, in his *Comprehensive Index* lists this "extract", we have accepted it as being an original piece and not extracted from any other written source by Philpot. We consider that what follows is either an extract from a sermon, or very scanty notes taken by a hearer, or the headings of a sermon taken down by a hearer who perhaps expanded on them from memory at a later occasion, is to live godly in Christ Jesus; the tenderest ties, perhaps, to be broken; the lucrative or advantageous prospects which have to be abandoned; old friends to be renounced; family connections to be given up; position in life to be lost; and often the shame and contempt to be entailed on one's family and oneself. All, indeed, are not so hedged about with these peculiar difficulties which we have just named; but few are wholly free from them, and he who thus describes them had much personal experience of them in his first setting his face Zionward.

Similarly we have to know, as a fruit of the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, the mighty power of God in maintaining divine life in our soul, when it has been communicated. We have to see and feel what mountains of difficulty, what seas of temptation, what winds and storms of error, what assaults and snares of Satan, and the latter more dangerous than the former; what floods of vileness and ungodliness without and within; what strong lusts and passions; what secret slips and falls, backslidings and departures from the living God; what long seasons of darkness, barrenness and death; what opposition of the flesh to the strait and narrow way; what crafty hypocrites, pretended friends, but real foes, false professors and erroneous characters, all striving to throw down or entangle our steps, we had to grapple with; what helplessness, inability and miserable impotency in ourselves to all that is good; what headlong proneness to all that is evil. All these things we have to pass in solemn review.

We have also to ponder over what we have been, and what we still are, since we professed to fear God, and how when left to ourselves we have done nothing but sin against and provoke him to his face from first to last, and yet still have divine life maintained within. And thus as we hold in our hands and read over article by article this long dark catalogue, still to have a sweet persuasion that the life of God is in our soul, and that because Jesus lives, we shall live also. This to realise, believe and feel, and bless God for his surpassing, super-abounding grace, is to know the exceeding greatness of the power of God to usward who believe, in maintaining divine life after it had been first communicated.